THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 12th March 1954.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

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I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Development of scarcity areas.

* 86 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Union Government have made any grants to the State Government for the development of chronic scarcity areas;

(*b*) if so, how much; and

(*c*) the districts in which the sum will be spent?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The Government of India have not so far sanctioned any *grant* to the State Government for the development of chronic scarcity areas. They have, however, agreed to assist the following irrigation projects by sanctioning *loans*, as part of the programme for permanent improvements to scarcity areas :—

(i) Amaravathi Project.

(ii) Vaigai Project.

(iii) Mettur Canals Scheme.

The question of the amount of loan to be credited to this Government in this year is under correspondence with the Government of India.

" (*c*) The loan received from the Government of India will be spent in the districts covered by the projects."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI :—" கோயம்பத்தூர் ஜில்லாவில், பல்லடம், தாராபுரம், ஈரோடு போன்ற பிரதேசங்களில் நிரந்தரமாக பஞ்சம் இருப்பதால் இந்த பிரதேசங்களை அபிவிருத்தி செய்ய சர்க்கார் என்ன நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுக்கப்போகின்றார்கள் ? அதற்கு வேண்டிய பணம் ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The main question is about the assistance received from the Union Government and I have already mentioned the specific projects for which we are getting such assistance. But this supplementary question is about a different aspect of the matter."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know what the chronic scarcity areas in our State are according to the Government of Madras?

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Does Chingleput fall under this category and, if so, what are the projects that they have in contemplation to improve this scarcity area?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The chronic scarcity areas are Ramanathapuram district, Dharapuram and round about Coimbatore district. I do not think Chingleput comes under this category. If the hon. Member thinks that this district should be classified under this category, we shall consider the suggestion."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Why is not the proverbially famine-stricken Pudukottai not included among the chronic scarcity areas?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" After the Andhra districts have been separated, let us say that there are no scarcity areas in our State."

SRI P. SELVARAJ :—" Since Koilpatti taluk is a scarcity area, will the Government come forward to start relief works there?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Temporary famine conditions should not be confused with chronic famine conditions."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவில் ஒரு பகுதியான, சிங்கிப்பட்டி, வல்லம், உள்ளூர் போன்ற பிரதேசங்கள், பஞ்சப் பிரதேசங்களாக இருப்பதால், அவைகளை அபிவிருத்தி செய்வதற்கு, யூனியன் சர்க்காரிடம் கடன் கேட்க, நம் சர்க்காருக்கு உத்தேசம் இருக்கிறதா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" There is a keen competition among Members to have their areas classified as famine areas. Tanjore is the richest district from the point of view of food production that we have in our State."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" In view of the fact that Malabar gets two-thirds of its food requirements from outside the district, will the Government consider it as a scarcity area?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The question is about chronic scarcity areas which are quite different from deficit areas. I agree that Malabar is deficit so far as foodstuffs are concerned. We have taken up some irrigation schemes for execution in Malabar."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Have the Andhra Government taken away any scarcity area from Tamilnad when the Andhra State was formed?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I was referring to the partition. The Andhra Government did not take away any Tamil areas except the disputed border areas. The scarcity area of the composite State was Rayalaseema and that has gone over to the Andhra State."

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SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" If the question whether an area is a chronic scarcity area is decided on the basis of the total rainfall in a year, will the Government be pleased to ascertain the total rainfall in the last five years in the Chingleput district and compare it with the rainfall of the areas classified as chronic scarcity areas by the Madras Government? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I know that the average rainfall in Chingleput is much more than the average rainfall in Salem."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" The Hon. Minister for Food said that Tanjore is the richest district in South India. Is it not a fact that Sengipatti was declared a famine area last year? The area is almost entirely rain-fed. Are there not parts of Tanjore district which could be classified as scarcity areas and what is the use of saying that Tanjore is the richest district? Will the Government be pleased to clas ify Sengipatti as a scarcity area? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We have to take a general view of the area concerned. We cannot go into individual pockets and find out whether they are chronically famine-stricken.

" Questions 87 and 88 may be taken together, as they relate to the same subject."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Yes."

Increase in the price of rice in Malabar.

* 87 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have again raised the price of rice sold in ration shops in Malabar by 2 pies per seer since 14th February 1954;

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to send boiled rice to Malabar instead of raw rice; and

(*d*) the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

" (*b*) Does not arise.

" (*c*) & (*d*) The Government have not taken any such decision. But as it is known that the people of Malabar prefer par-boiled rice to raw rice, the Government are trying their best to procure and supply as much par-boiled rice as possible."